

In the eighteenth century the Commandeurs and other employees of the West India Company were the only Europeans allowed on the island, and colonial settlement in Aruba was not permitted until June 17, 1754.

The residence of the Commandeur was located in a coastal area called Commandeurs Baai (Commanders' Bay), in an area known today as Savaneta.

When the Horses' Bay (Paardenbaai) in Oranjestad gradually replaced the Commanders' Bay as the main harbor to release cattle, and the trade activities around the Oranjestad harbor increased, Commandeur Jan van der Biest II moved the commandeur's residence to Ponton. His grave is located at the Ponton graveyard.

1792-1816 Flags galore in Aruba

Under Commandeur Speght Aruba entered a tumultuous period.

In 1792 the Dutch Government took over the second West India Company.

War broke out between the Dutch Republic and France resulting in the termination of the Dutch Republic and effective rule of the colonies by the French in 1796.

The Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the Batavian Republic and the United States prompted the English to attack Aruba, and they took possession of Aruba which was returned to the Dutch in 1803.

When the Fort Zoutman fortress was constructed and four pieces of artillery mounted in 1797 more people started erecting dwellings near the Oranjestad bay, prompting the move of the administration to Oranjestad.

At the end of 1803 England, France and the Netherlands were again at war.

In October 1804 Aruba was taken by the English Captain Mahling commanding the frigate Diana, but the Union Jack flew for only a week. On February 12, 1805 Mahling returned and replaced Johan Craneveldt, appointed as the commandeur in 1804, with Bruyn Govertsz Quant.

The English reappeared regularly, until an expedition of Pierre Changuion, Governor of the Colony of Curacao, drove them out.

During this period strange things happened with the appointment of commandeurs.

The Curacao administration and

the English took turns in dismissing, appointing and reappointing these officials. The English did as they pleased, regularly putting men ashore and ordering the Union Jack hoisted, which was lowered again and replaced by the Dutch flag as soon as the English sailed past the horizon.

In 1807 the English seized control of the Colony of Curacao, the islands hav-

ing Den siglo diessiete Commandeur y otro empleadonan di West Indische Compagnie tawata e unico Europeo permiti riba e isla, y establecimiento colonial na Aruba no tawata permiti te 17 juni 1754.

E residencia di e Commandeur tawata situa den un area di costa yama Commandeurs Baai, den e area awendia conoci como Savaneta.

Ora e Paardenbaai na Oranjestad

Na final di 1803 Inglatera, Francia y Holanda tawata den guerra atrobe.

Na oktober 1804 Aruba a ser ocupa dor di e capitan ingles Mahling na mando di e frigata Diana, pero e bandera ingles a bula pa un siman so. Dia 12 februari 1805 Mahling a volve y a reemplaza Johan Craneveldt, apunta como commandeur na 1804, cu Bruyn Govertsz Quant.

E inglesnan tawata reapparece regularmente, te ora cu un expedicion encabeza pa Pierre Changuion, Gobernador di e colonia di Curacao, a expulsa nan.

Durante e periodo aki cosnan straño tawata tuma lugar cu e nombracion di commandeurs.

E administracion na Curacao y e inglesnan tawata tuma turno, den kita, nombra y reapunta e commandeurs como oficialnan.

E inglesnan tawata actua na nan antoho, regularmente subiendo tera cu tropa pa instrui baha e bandera pa despues hisa e tricolor ingles, cual ultimo tawata ser baha atrobe tan

pronto cu e barco ingles a desaparece tras di horizonte.

Na 1807 e inglesnan a tuma control di e colonia di Curacao, siendo cu e gobernacion frances di Holanda a neglisha e islanan den Caribe. Dia 11 maart 1816 Aruba a ser devolvi na e recien crea Reino Holandes.

1848- E ultimo commandeur

Na 1848 e titulo di commandeur como rango mas halto oficial a ser reemplaza pa gezaghebber, apunta dor di e Rey Holandes.

E ultimo commandeur nombra na Aruba, Jacobus Jarman (1837-1848) a bira e prome gezaghebber y asina e periodo ilustre di gobernacion colonial di e commandeurs a yega su fin.

Tur loke a keda awendia di e hombernan aki tan nan nombenan, datos den archivonan y nan tumbanan.

Na Seroe Patrishi, Ponton y Savaneta santana biew cu tumba di algun di e oficialnan colonial por ser haña. Na e santana di Seroe Patrishi e tumbanan di Simon Plats, Jacob Thielen y Johan F.W. Gravenhorst ta e unico di e tumba di commandeur cu por ser identifica ainda.



Graves at Seroe Patrishi

ing been neglected by the French rulers of the Netherlands. On March 11, 1816 Aruba was returned to the newly created Kingdom of the Netherlands.

1848- The last of the commandeurs

In 1848 the title of commandeur as highest ranking official was replaced by lieutenant-governor, appointed by the King of the Netherlands.

The last appointed Commandeur of Aruba, Jacobus Jarman (1837-1848) became the first lieutenant-governor and thus the illustrious era of colonial rule by the Commandeurs came to a final close.

All that remains today of these men are their names, records and their graves.

At Seroe Patrishi, Ponton and Savaneta old graveyards with the tombs of some of the colonial rulers can be found. In the Seroe Patrishi graveyard the graves of Simon Plats, Jacob Thielen and Johan F.W. Gravenhorst are the only commandeurs' graves that can still be identified.

Source/Fuente: Hartog, J., 1969, Aruba, past and present; From the time of the Indians until today: Oranjestad, Aruba, publisher D. J. DeWit

gradualmente a reemplaza Commandeurs Baai como e principal waf pa baha animal di cria, y actividadnan comercial den cercania di e waf di Oranjestad a aumenta, Commandeur Jan van der Biest II a traslada e residencia di e commandeur pa Ponton. Su tumba ta situa den e santana na Ponton.

1792-1816 Hisa baha tricolor na Aruba

Bao di encargo di commandeur Spaght Aruba a drenta un periodo tumultuoso.

Na 1792 Gobierno Holandes a adquiri e segundo West Indische Compagnie.

Guera a inicia entre e Republica Holandes y Francia resultando den e terminacion di e Republica Holandes y un de facto gobernacion di e colonianan pa Francia na 1796.

E Tratado di Amistad y Comercio entre e Republica Batavo y Merca a pone e inglesnan ataca Aruba y nan a tuma posesion di Aruba, cual isla nan a devolve na e holandesnan na 1803.

Ora a construi Fort Zoutman y a arma cuater pieza di artilleria na 1797 mas hende a cuminsa traha cas cerca di e waf di Oranjestad, poniendo e sede administrativo di Aruba ser traslada pa Oranjestad.

COMMANDEURS: COLONIAL RULE IN ARUBA

Introduction

The Dutch colonial rule which lasted until the Charter of the Dutch Kingdom was signed in 1954 has left indelible marks on Aruban society, yet only a handful of tangible mementos. Of the precious few historical monuments that bear testimony of this period, some are in very poor shape, and of the Dutch colonial rulers only some scattered, mostly unmarked and neglected graves remain at three sites in Aruba.

This is their story and a part of the Aruban heritage much overlooked and we therefore like to quote the Sioux saying: "A people without history are like the wind on the buffalo grass".

Aruba discovered

On January 26, 1624 three ships of the West India Company sailed from the Netherlands, with Pieter Schouten as commanding officer. On April 24, 1624 Schouten sighted Aruba off the Venezuelan coast at Cabo Roman. The crew did not go ashore. The Hooiberg in the center of Aruba is described for the first time.

In January 1627 departed from the Dutch isle of Texel an expedition under Dirck van Uytgeest, commodore in the service of the West India Company. On May 2, 1627 the expedition arrived off the coast of Aruba, but upon spotting horsemen on the shore, the crew preferred the safety of the ships and did not disembark.

In 1623 the Dutch set foot ashore for the first time on the Leeward Islands in Bonaire.

In 1633 Spain conquered the island of St. Martin, a strategic spot between Brazil and New Netherland, two of the colonies of the Netherlands.

1636-1792: the West India Company rule

The West India Company needed a stronghold in the Caribbean to ensure supremacy in the New World and in July 1635 took possession of Curacao, but were driven out by the Spanish, and regained control by the end of 1635 under Van Walbeeck.

The Spaniards evacuated Aruba, and left the island uninhabited in 1636.

In 1642 the Spanish took possession of Bonaire again, and Peter Stuyvesant, infuriated, launched an expedition to maraud the Venezuelan coast.

The Dutch used Aruba as a base for op-

erations, from which to attack Venezuela, under Spanish rule, with Aruba doubling as a supply depot. At the end of eighty years of war between Spain and Holland, Aruba lost its military importance.

The first administrative organization of the Colony of Curacao, to which Aruba belonged, was created in 1629 by the Heeren Negentien (board of directors), of the Dutch West India Company.

The Amsterdam Chamber of the Company was put in charge of Curacao.

The colonial authorities, a Director in Curacao, and the governors for Bonaire and Aruba, received their commissions from the mother country. The governors of Bonaire and Aruba, whose title was soon changed to commandeur (commander), were subordinated to the Director in Curacao.

The rank of commandeur until 1848 was to represent the title of the governor of a subordinate territory.

Later in time the Commandeur of Aruba was made Chief of the Island.

It is not clear whether the first commandeur was appointed immediately after the occupation.

Not until 1667 or 1668 do we find mention of the first commandeur, an Irishman by the name of Williams, not unusual since the Company's military branch used to employ many foreigners.

In 1674 the second West India Company took over the possessions of the old one, and Aruba as a dependency of Curacao. In 1676 the second commandeur was a Belgian by the name of Joseph Flaccius, born in Brussels. During a brief interlude Johannes Bontemantel was the highest dignitary of Aruba, replaced by Flaccius who fulfilled a second term from 1680 to 1714.

During the first period the Commandeur of Aruba was the only white person in Aruba and in the beginning did not even command a garrison, as his Bonaire colleague did.

Defense never amounted to much in Aruba. In 1678 there were fifteen soldiers in Aruba, with the strength of the garrison varying.

In 1701 the occupational force consisted of Flaccius, two soldiers and two horsemen. Because Aruba was never considered a strategic island, it was poorly equipped to ward off buccaneers and enemy ships.

COMMANDEURS: GOBERNACION COLONIAL NA ARUBA

Introduccion

E mando colonial holandes cu a dura te na firmamento di e Statuut di Reino Holandes na 1954 a laga marca permanente riba e sociedad arubano, pero masha poco recuerdo tangibel. Di e precioso poco monumento historico cu ta testimonio di e era aki, algun ta den masha mal estado, y di e mandatarionan colonial holandes ta algun tumba sin marca y negligencia por ser haña na tres sitio na Aruba.

Esaki ta nan storia y un parti di e patrimonio historico ignora. Esaki ta pone nos corda riba un dicho popular: "El pueblo que ignora su historia no tiene futuro".

Aruba descubri

26 Januari 1624 tres barco di e West Indische Compagnie a nabega for di Holanda, cu Pieter Schouten como oficial na mando. Dia 24 april 1624 Schouten ta descubri Aruba desde e costa venezolano na Cabo Roman. E tripulacion no ta subitara. E Hooiberg di Aruba ta ser describi pa prome biaha.

Januari 1627 ta sali for di e isla di Texel un expedicion bao mando di Dirck van Uytgeest, comodoro den servicio di West Indische Compagnie. Riba 2 mei 1627 e expedicion ta yega cerca di costa di Aruba, pero mirando hinete na tera, e tripulantenan ta prefera e seguridad di barco y no ta desembarca.

Na 1623 holandesnan ta pone pia pa promer biaha riba e Islanan di Abao na Bonaire.

Na 1633 España ta conquista e isla di St Maarten, un punto estrategico entre Brazil y Nieuw Holland (New York, Merca), dos di e colonianan Holandes.

1636-1792: Mando di West Indische Compagnie

West Indische Compagnie tawata tin mester di un base fortifica pa asegura su supremacia den e Mundo Nobo y na juli 1635 a tuma posesion di Curacao, pero a ser expulsa pa e spañonan, y a recobra control na fin di 1635 bao mando di Van Walbeeck.

E spañonan a evacua Aruba y a laga e isla inhabita na 1636.

Na 1642 e spañonan a tuma posesion di Bonaire atrobe, y Peter Stuyvesant, furioso, a lanza un expedicion pa saquea e costa venezolano.

E holandesnan a usa Aruba como base di operacion, for di cual pa ataca Venezu-

ela, colonia spaño, y Aruba alavez sirviendo como estacion di abastecimento. Na final di Tachtigjarige Oorlog (1568-1648) entre Holanda y Spaña, Aruba a perde importancia militar.

E prome organisacion administrativo di e Colonia di Curacao, na cual Aruba tawata pertenece, a ser crea na 1629 pa Heeren Negentien di West Indische Compagnie. E camara di Amsterdam di dicho compania a keda encarga cu Curacao. E autoridadnan colonial, un Director na Curacao y e gobernadornan di Bonaire y Aruba tawata ricibi nan comision for di madre patria. E gobernadornan di Bonaire y Aruba, kende nan titulo pronto a cambia pa commandeur, tawata subordinada na e Director na Curacao.

E rango di commandeur te na 1848 lo tawata representa e titulo di gobernante di un territorio subordinado.

Mas despues e Commandeur di Aruba a ser haci Hefe di e isla.

No ta claro si a nombra e prome commandeur inmediatamente despues di a ocupa e isla.

No ta te 1667 of 1668 cu nos ta encontra mencion di e prome commandeur, un irlandes cu e nombre Williams, nada inusual ya cu e Compagnie su rama militar tawata emplea hopi stranhero.

Na 1674 e Tweede West Indische Compagnie a tuma e posesionan di su predecesor, y tambe Aruba como posesion di Curacao. Na 1676 e segundo commandeur tawata un belga cu e nombre di Joseph Flaccius, naci na Bruselas. Durante un corto interludio Johannes Bontemantel tawata e dignitario mas halto na Aruba, reemplaza pa Flaccius cu a cumpli un di dos termino di 1680 te 1714.

Durante e prome periodo e Commandeur di Aruba tawata e unico hende blanco na Aruba y den cuminsamento no tawata tin ni tropa na su disposicion, manera si tawata e caso cu su colega na Bonaire.

Defensa na Aruba nunca tawata gran cos. Na 1678 tawata tin diescinco soldat na Aruba, cu e forza di e tropanan militar variando.

Na 1701 e forza ocupacional tawata consisti di Flaccius, dos soldat y dos hinete. Pasobra nunca a considera Aruba estrategico, e isla no tawata bon equipa pa defende su territorio contra barco enemigo y pirata.